

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.
JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

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VOLUME XLV.—NO. 1

AMUSEMENTS TO-DAY AND EVENING.

PARK THEATRE—BARNES IN THE WOOD. Matinee.
LYCEUM THEATRE—DOCKMAN MARRIAGE. Matinee.
BROADWAY THEATRE—THE SCARLET LEAF. Matinee.
COMIQUE—CHRISTMAS JOYS AND SORROWS. Matinee.
WALLACK'S THEATRE—AT LAST. Matinee.
UNION SQUARE—THE BARKER'S DAUGHTER. Matinee.
FOOTHILL THEATRE—EVANGELINE. Matinee.
GERMANIA THEATRE—THE IRISH FAMILIES. Matinee.
FIFTH AVENUE—RIP VAN WICKIE. Matinee.
STANDARD THEATRE—ALMOST A LIFE. Matinee.
BOWERY THEATRE—JASPER. Matinee.
NIBLO'S GARDEN—PICK OF THE DAY. Matinee.
OLYMPIC—INGRAM. Matinee.
NEW YORK AQUARIUM—CINDERELLA. Matinee.
GLOBE—ONLY A FARMER'S DAUGHTER. Matinee.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—THE SHAGBARK. Matinee.
MINNIE CUMMINGS THEATRE—OPERA BOUFFE. Matinee.
THOMAS OPERA HOUSE—MINSTRELS. Matinee.
TIVOLI THEATRE—VARIETY. Matinee.
TOBY PASTORS—VARIETY. Matinee.
SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS. Matinee.
EGYPTIAN HALL—VARIETY. Matinee.
STEINWAY HALL—SYMPHONY CONCERT. Matinee.
MASSONIC HALL—TOM THUMB. Matinee.

WITH SUPPLEMENT.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1879.

The probabilities are that the weather in New York and its vicinity to-day will be cold and fair. To-morrow it promises to be cold and partly cloudy.

WALL STREET YESTERDAY.—The stock market was fairly active, without any violent fluctuations, but generally slightly lower. Government bonds were firm, States steady and railroads strong. Money on call was easy at 4 to 5 per cent, advanced to 6 per cent and closed at 4 to 4 1/2 per cent.

THE PARK COMMISSIONERS had as warm a time yesterday as if there were no thermometers this side of the North Pole.

THE SUB-TREASURY spent another day in taking in more gold than it paid out. How to get rid of the yellow dross will be the next question.

TWELVE "MOONSHINE" DISTILLERS have been convicted and gone to jail, and the public is "out" some thousands of headaches for the next month or two.

ABOUT TEN PER CENT of the wills presented for probate in New York last year were contested. Moral—Dispose of your surplus funds before you die.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER was rather too cold for comfortable sleighing, but there never was a better day in which to give a ton of coal to some poverty stricken family.

AIR YOUR ROOMS two or three times a day during the cold snap; it is generally after a period of tightly closed doors and windows that diphtheria and scarlet fever are most virulent.

SOME STRANGE DEVELOPMENTS of husbandly affection are reported to-day. If such things are to go on men's wives, like other domestic pets, would be safer in good strong cages, with the keys lost.

KIDNAPPING may be an official virtue to Connecticut eyes, but a detective from the Nutmeg State learned yesterday that New York still regards such actions according to old-fashioned laws and dictations.

COMPTROLLER KELLY's official statement is more honorable to that gentleman than the leadership in city or State politics would be; it shows a reduction during the year of four million dollars in the city debt.

A FIRM OF REAL ESTATE AGENTS in Hoboken attempted to dispossess a tenant; the constable delayed proceedings because the tenant's wife was ill and her physician thought her removal might be dangerous in its effects; the agents sued the constable for damages occasioned by his delaying to dispossess, and lost nothing but their suit. Hoboken is a merciful place, and it is to be hoped that the agents are properly grateful.

THE WEATHER.—The disturbance which passed over our district on Thursday is now over the ocean off the coast of Nova Scotia. During its northeastward movement the pressure continued falling very fast, and a cyclonic storm centre has been developed which will prove very dangerous to vessels on the ocean north of latitude 40. The area of high barometer in the West is moving rapidly after the storm centre, making the gradients very steep in the lower lake regions, the Middle Atlantic and New England States. There is evidently another depression moving in the extreme northwestern districts, but as yet its outlines are not very well defined. Heavy snows are reported in the lake regions and New England. Gales are blowing over the lower lakes and on the North Atlantic coast. Brisk winds prevail in the Middle Atlantic coast districts and over the Western Gulf; elsewhere they have been generally fresh. With the exception of a slight rise in the Northwest the temperature has fallen steadily and is likely to continue low during the next few days. Reports of effects of the storm continue to arrive from all the northern sections of this State. The heavy snowdrifts have stopped the travel on nearly all the railroads; the mails from the West are delayed and passengers have to "lay over" at way stations—that is, when they are fortunate enough not to be on trains that are snowed in. The weather during the next few days will, although cold, enable the railroad officials to clear the tracks, as there is little probability of any heavy snow storms. Our special weather cable from Europe states that the weather continues stormy and that gales are blowing in some sections. This is in exact accordance with the prediction sent by the HERALD Weather Bureau to London on December 26, details of which were published in the HERALD of January 2. The weather in New York and its vicinity to-day will be cold and fair. To-morrow it promises to be cold and partly cloudy.

Reform of the Diplomatic Service.

The principle which should guide our intercourse with foreign nations was stated, with his customary sagacity, by Washington, in that celebrated legacy of wise counsel, his Farewell Address. "The great rule of conduct for us," he said, "in regard to foreign nations is, in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible." He explained this advice by reference to our detached and distant situation, which separates us from any real interest in the political affairs of Europe. Jefferson, who had served as an ambassador and knew by personal observation the contrast between European institutions and our own, adopted the sentiment of Washington on this subject in language so pointed and striking that it was taken up and repeated until it became proverbial:—"Peace, commerce and honest friendship with all nations—entangling alliances with none." In order to maintain commerce we must have the official facilities of commerce—that is, foreign consuls to attend to the interests of trade. Other means of official intercourse do not need to be constant and habitual, but only occasional. When treaties must be negotiated it is best done by special envoys composed of citizens or statesmen of weight of character and possessing special knowledge of the subject matter in question. In point of fact the greater part of our really important treaties have been negotiated outside the regular channels of diplomatic intercourse. Washington, for example, sent the Chief Justice of the United States to England to negotiate the most important treaty of his administration; Henry Clay was the most important of the special envoys sent to negotiate the Treaty of Ghent; Lord Ashburton came to this country to settle the Northeastern boundary by direct communication with Mr. Webster, our Secretary of State; the Alabama Claims Treaty was formed by a joint high commission. The last two instances show that even England, which has a trained diplomatic service, recognizes the wisdom of conducting important negotiations by special envoys. Her famous commercial treaty with France was negotiated by Mr. Cobden and not by the English Minister to Paris, Cobden having been selected on account of his unequalled knowledge of commercial interests.

We desire to see a large retrenchment of diplomatic expenses, and shall support all intelligent efforts made in Congress to that end. This desirable retrenchment will be best accomplished by suppressing all the minor missions. We would spare the six principal ones, but abolish all the others. Our diplomatic service is, in the main, a hospital for decayed politicians or a reward for electioneering activity. Men are appointed to foreign missions who do not know the language of the country to which they are accredited, and have but an imperfect acquaintance with their own; who are ignorant of the history and policy of foreign governments; who have neither the accomplishments of scholars nor the manners of cultivated society. All the minor missions would be useless even if they were filled by competent diplomatists; but when we fill these useless places with vulgar politicians, who reflect discredit on the country they represent, the money which we spend on them is worse than wasted.

We would curtail the expenses even of the six chief missions which it may be expedient to maintain. We regard this as the most promising method of elevating the character of the service. The few foreign missions which it is expedient to retain should be regarded as high posts of honor, and the honor should form the chief part of the compensation. There will always be citizens of eminence who would willingly serve their country in the highest missions for a very modest compensation. The same motives which make Englishmen covet seats in Parliament and cause them to incur heavy election expenses for the privilege of serving without pay; the same motives which impelled our Washington to decline any compensation beyond the bare reimbursement of his expenses, would give us competent men for our chief missions, if our diplomatic service could be rescued from the degradation which has been brought upon it by making it a political hospital. We have distinguished men enough who are willing to fill posts of honor at a pecuniary sacrifice. What Secretary of State in our time has lived on his modest salary of eight thousand dollars? But no one advocates an increase of compensation for the head of the Cabinet or fears that eminent men will not always be found to fill a post of so much dignity and influence. There is perhaps some misconception respecting the pecuniary sacrifice. Abbott Lawrence spent fifty thousand dollars in excess of his salary as Minister to England, and Mr. Fish is said to have exceeded his salary as Secretary of State to an equal amount. But Mr. Fish as a private gentleman has always lived in about the same style in New York that he did in Washington. His salary was a slight diminution of his ordinary expenses, and he really sacrificed nothing but his ease. Modest diplomatic salaries would not exclude eminent men of letters, because a man like Mr. Longfellow would be secure of every kind of social attentions, and would be an honored and coveted guest everywhere, in spite of a simple style of living. The literary admiration of which he is the object would be rather obstructed than aided by a pretentious mode of living. The same remark applies to illustrious soldiers, like General Grant and General Sherman, if they should be sent on foreign missions. Great and deserved fame depends its possessor from claiming social consideration by a display of wealth. It is unquestionable that the respectability of our diplomatic service would be redeemed and elevated if the compensation barely sufficed for necessary expenses.

We do not advocate this change from narrow motives of economy, but as the surest means of improving the service. Where a high grade of ability and respectability is best secured by money we favor a liberal compensation—that is to say, in posts of great labor and small dignity. Our consuls, and especially the consuls general

in countries where we dispense with a Minister, should be men of energy and intelligence and well paid. The army is no place for niggardly economy so long as we have the troublesome Indians on our hands. The most important requisite for maintaining our national honor abroad is an efficient and gallant navy; not a set of vessels rotting in the navy yards, but noble ships of war in constant commission, cruising in all waters and putting into all ports which are visited by our merchant marine. We would spend money liberally on the navy for the same reason that we would retrench diplomatic expenses—in order to make the nation respectable and honored.

Who Will Be Speaker?

Our special Albany correspondent discusses in another column the chances of the Speakership election, and concludes that, while Mr. Alvord's prospects are decidedly the best as against Mr. Sloan and Mr. Husted, should no other candidate appear in the field, there is a probability that a movement may be made, with a fair prospect of success, to place some new member in the Speaker's chair. The three gentlemen who have been actively engaged in the canvass appear all to have adopted the well established policy known as "bounce," as, according to their positive statements, they are all certain of success and have already secured enough pledges to settle the contest on the first ballot. But it is suggested that the members, when they reach Albany, may evince a disposition to cast their own votes after their own fashion, and, as it is certain that all three of the candidates cannot have a majority of the republican strength in the Assembly, it is possible that they may one and all be counting their chickens in advance of the hatching.

The probability of a new candidate hinges mainly on the action of Mr. Husted. If he should remain in the field and hold his strength, which is set down at twenty-one votes, there will be a triangular fight which may lead to the result suggested by our correspondent. This is the more likely, since the friends of Mr. Sloan object to Mr. Alvord's election on principle and may therefore be prepared to support an acceptable new candidate in order to secure Mr. Alvord's defeat. If Mr. Husted should make an arrangement with Mr. Alvord beforehand and step out of the canvass the election would be decided on the first ballot, and would, no doubt, result in Mr. Alvord's success. In the event of a triangular fight either Mr. Sloan, who is said to be able to hold his full vote intact, or Mr. Husted, who has a personal following upon whose co-operation he could rely, would have it in his power to make the Speaker. Should either of these candidates propose Dr. Isaac I. Hayes as a compromise candidate there seems to be little doubt that the movement would result in that member's election. There could be no objection to him on the part of Mr. Sloan's supporters, who remain in the country districts, while he would be sure of a strong vote from this end of the State. As a matter of policy we believe the republicans would benefit their party by taking up a new and unpledged Speaker of the Assembly and compelling all the old Speakers to stand aside. Mr. Conkling's election would be rendered more impressive and effective under a new departure of this kind, and the republican prospects in next autumn's important State election would be improved by such a policy. The selection of so well known and prominent a gentleman as Dr. Hayes as Speaker of the first Assembly that convenes in the new Capitol would be creditable to the Legislature and honorable to the State.

The War in Afghanistan.

Military operations and diplomatic events in England's little difficulty with her Asiatic neighbor seemed to move on swimmingly when we heard of them both in the resolute chronicle of official despatches, not corrected for errors or diminished for the inevitable bounce of our cousin's sanguine temperament. It appears now that Yakob Khan has not come in at all, and there is great likelihood that he will entirely disappoint the expectations that he would surrender and hold his father's realm as the puppet of British authority. Even Shere Ali's departure has been misunderstood and misinterpreted, and instead of a flight in panic it is a departure to appeal to a friendly Power in view of the well understood fact that Herat is strategically the key of Afghanistan, and that with the English at Cabul and Candahar a war against them would not be desperate if the friendly Power takes any interest in the Ameer's cause. If they should have, in the highlands on the Cabul line, a few days of such weather as we are having now in this neighborhood, campaigning would be unpleasant to the invader. That it is not over pleasant as it is seems to follow from the statements of the extremely bad condition of the troops, with the commissariat broken down as usual. With all the cant and palaver that we hear, year after year, from British "scientific soldiers" on military organization and administration, is it not strange that they never can get a well equipped and effective commissary service in any British army?

Canal Tolls.

Auditor Schuyler's report of the financial condition of the Canal Department, of which we publish an interesting abstract, contains some statements of the comparative cost of repairs under the old management and the new, and a long argument in favor of free canals. The Auditor holds that the existing toll is large enough to divert shipments from the metropolis to other seaports, thereby depriving laboring men and others of our citizens of work and money which they might otherwise have obtained. As the receipts from all sources during the fiscal year did not quite equal the expenditures during the same time it is difficult to see how, if the tolls had not existed, the expenses of the department could have been paid without taking a certain sum of money from the people by the process of taxation, and this sum would have exceeded that which the Auditor claims has been lost to New York through the cheaper transportation which has been secured by other routes.

"Below Zero."

In seasons of extreme heat or cold the thermometer becomes a popular study, and our people who use the Fahrenheit measurement often exhibit a strange impatience at the instrument when in midsummer hot spells it fails to touch one hundred degrees, or when in midwinter cold snaps the little column of mercury does not shrink to zero or below. From the time it passes eighty on its way upward, or thirty-two (freezing point) on its way downward, it comes into vogue. People love round numbers, and zero and one hundred satisfy them, all over or under that being special boons to the frivolous. But these arbitrary figures represent only the merest fraction of the ranges of heat. Fahrenheit, having learned from Réaumur to mark his thermometers by first dividing the difference between the freezing and boiling points of water into one hundred and eighty degrees and adopting as zero the temperature of a mixture of snow and common salt, thought he had reached the bottom of the scale, while Celsius marked his zero at freezing point and the boiling point of water at one hundred. But it is not by the columns of mercury that we should alone gauge the cold. How it strikes the human frame and congeals the current of life is of keener interest. How the poor and the homeless suffer, how shelter from the bitter wind means no refuge from the biting cold, is of greater moment. "A family of eight persons frozen to death;" "Brakeman Opdyke found dead and frozen at his post on the hurrying train;" "a waif found dead from the cold near Wilkesbarre;" "the east side elevated road is running its trains all night to keep the engines from freezing up"—these stray items of the news give us a measure of what is meant when a man reads at his breakfast table that over a wide territory it has been "below zero." A man goes forth warmly clad; he keeps moving to keep up bodily warmth; he finds all the devices that served him in milder weather are failing him now. The thick fur gloves do not altogether protect his hands; his fur cap and earlets cannot keep his face warm. The air seems stripping off his clothing the further he goes, and he is soon glad to rush indoors. Let the wind be blowing as it was in New York last night, or fine, dust-like snow be whirling thick upon it as further west, and these conditions become intensified almost beyond description. Wee to the thinly clad out of doors or the fireless and blanketless in poor abodes. Such a one walks along the darkened streets, his hands become numb, his feet are cold, and his ears, that were pain him, lose all sensation; he draws his breath in pain. The chill is searching out his bones, and his feet, though heavy to lift as lead, seem to touch the earth like feathers; then he feels more tired than cold; his eyes are growing heavy. He will sit down and wait a while, as if warmth would come to him. That is nearly dead. Stupor comes, and then death. This is what "below zero" means for many. For thousands beside it means longer, if less deadly suffering. Think of this by your warm firesides to-day. The extreme cold will remain over a wide stretch of this continent for four or five days to come, and the winter through promises to be unusually severe. Think of and help the poor, then, who are "always with you."

General Grant in Ireland.

If anything was a moral certainty it was that when General Grant visited Ireland he would meet with a popular reception of the most enthusiastic description. That he was a great and successful soldier was a high claim upon a people with such admiration of the chivalrous; that he had led to victory so many thousands of Irishmen and sons of Irishmen in the war for the Union brought him still closer to them, for there is scarcely a household in all Ireland that has not some family link with the Irish beyond the Atlantic. To him Fame justly ascribes the salvation of that government and that flag under which the famine-stricken, the oppressed and the evicted of Ireland had found homes, prosperity and freedom. During the war for the Union the people of Ireland prayed, like Lincoln at Gettysburg, that this "government of the people, for the people and by the people" should not perish from the earth. They could not fit out ships to fight the Alabamas that England was letting go, but they sent out many a sturdy son to do battle for the Union. To an immense proportion of the Irish people General Grant typifies the republican form of government which they hope for. By the officials of the British government General Grant will, of course, be received as a foremost citizen of a friendly Power; but it is in its popular feature that his visit will be most interesting. He will find that he had been President over more Irishmen than Queen Victoria rules.

The Cobb Murder Case.

It would be difficult to produce an exact parallel in the annals of crime for the trial now in progress at Norwich, Conn. First, it was shown on trustworthy chemical evidence that arsenic had been found in the dead man's body in sufficient quantity to cause death, on the theory that more than two grains could not be carried in a man's system. Physicians testified in a similar careful spirit that they believed the man had been poisoned with arsenic, and that from a grain to two grains was a fatal dose. With the expert testimony concluded the paramour of the dead man's wife is put upon the stand and boldly tells the whole story of the plot to murder and states the heroic use of arsenic. On one occasion he gave to the unfaithful wife half an ounce of arsenic and declares his opinion that the husband "got the most of it." His information, of course, came from the wife, who administered it in coffee and other articles of daily use. In half an ounce there are two hundred and forty grains. If the victim got half his endurance rather damages some of the medical opinions. He had taken this quantity between March 15 and the end of April—say an average for forty-five days of nearly three grains a day. "More arsenic," but how much is

not told, was supplied about the first of May, and toward the last of May the wife, determined to be free, told her confederate that "she was getting out of arsenic," and he bought her some more. Between the 15th of March, therefore, and June 6—the day of his death—this wretched victim was fed on this freely supplied poison to an extent which indicates that the Connecticut doctors would do well to make themselves acquainted with the facts before they stigmatize as "stories" the well considered statements of learned men in other countries. Bishop's recital of the whole story of his love is the most remarkable piece of testimony ever given in a court of justice—even in the State whose criminal history is illuminated by the exploits of Mrs. Alexander.

Ottoman Conditions and Grecian Claims.

Turkey, like England, wants "a scientific frontier;" she asserts that the line of demarcation between Grecian and Turkish territory shall be changed on several conditions, the first of which is that the new frontier shall be a strategic line as contemplated from the Ottoman side. In view of the obligation that the Ottoman government was placed under at Berlin this demand exhibits the fine, fresh and vigorous impudence of the new Grand Vizier. Greece, on the wrong side of a strategic line, would thus only acquire the domination of Grecian districts by giving the Moslems an equivalent in a frontier that should put the Hellenic power at a distinct military disadvantage; and that was not what was intended at Berlin. Another requirement made by Khedreddin Pacha is that the Powers must pledge themselves to observe neutrality in case Greece should make any new claims or attempt invasion. Evidently the Powers will not make this pledge, and will not altogether appreciate the Vizier's threat to settle by force relations that Europe in conference has declared must be settled peacefully by concession on the part of the Sultan. As his conditions will not be accepted, will the Vizier refuse, as he threatens, to accept the principle of the rectification of the frontier? If he does he will be in open contradiction with the Powers that have declared that the Treaty of Berlin must be fully executed, and his administration will not be a success.

Changing the Issue.

"A Britisher," whose letter on the André monument discussion appeared in yesterday's HERALD, will find from the replies we publish to-day that his estimate of the character of those Europeans who, like himself, have made the United States their home, meets with some dissent. The energy with which his disparaging remarks about his own countrymen are resented by Americans affords a satisfactory refutation of his insinuation that the people of the United States are the victims of Anglophobia, and we have no doubt that a number of our correspondents—only a very small portion of whose letters we print, by the way—would be well pleased to assure him personally of their esteem for modest Britishers. Meanwhile, it is well to remember, that as the bottom has fallen out of the André monument tub, it is a waste of time to pour into it either the water of commendation or the liquor of indignation. There is a story of a man who having been sued by a neighbor for the value of a borrowed kettle which had been found when loaned and leaky when returned made answer, first, that the kettle was not found when he borrowed it; second, that it had no hole in the bottom when he returned it, and, third, that he never borrowed the kettle at all. As Mr. Field never proposed to erect a monument to Major André it is scarcely worth while to discuss the soundness or unsoundness of the proposition to erect such a monument. The "Britisher" who objects so decidedly to "national impudence and pomposity" may, therefore, safely drop the André issue and confine his attention to the other interesting international topics which his letter has brought into prominence.

The Athletes Last Night at Gilmore's Garden.

Notwithstanding the cold snap Gilmore's Garden was comfortable last night even for the half-clad athletes, and as race after race was run off almost on schedule time the great variety of styles, both of running and walking; the determined efforts of the management to insure fair walking, and the prompt exclusion of men who broke or seemed to break into a run; the pretty sight of nearly thirty wiry fellows occasionally getting away in a bunch and tearing over the course at a break-neck pace, and the dogged and unyielding tug of war teams, wet with perspiration even in zero weather, and the air constantly rent with the cheers of friends urging the contestants on—all combined to furnish the many spectators with a capital evening's sport and gave promise of exceptionally good work in the final contests to-night. The introduction of picked tug of war teams from our best known regiments was a new and very welcome feature, and it would be an excellent step if all our militiamen took a quarter of an hour's tug at a stout rope two or three times a week. If they think there is not a deal to learn in this business they should have seen the short work the Scotchmen made of their antagonists last night, when they hauled them in like tom cod. Brains tell even in the tug of war, and of the many squads at it last night none began to show that it had good leadership save these same Caledonians. With management in most respects superb it seemed strange that the announcements of the results and times should be left to one man, whose poor larynx must have suffered from its frequent and futile efforts to be heard over the vast hall. For his benefit we would suggest that the Board of Education gradually awaken to the need of physical exercise among the children, and as school does not keep to-day no doubt they would gladly loan a blackboard for use to-night, thus preventing, perhaps, one premature death and letting all the spectators, instead of only a favored few, know what is being accomplished.

Moncasi's Doom.

Moncasi is to pay the penalty of his life for his attempt to kill the King of Spain, as all efforts to have the judgment set aside by an exercise of Executive clemency have ended in failure. Efforts to move royal mercy in behalf of men of this sort are to be numbered with the curiosities of criminal justice. Seldom does a wretch fall under the ban of the law who is so poor in friends as not to have some one cry out in his behalf for mercy. Pardon is sought for the smallest murderer on the list; but for the man who attempts to murder a king it is sought with an energy and a clamor and a persistency never seen in other circumstances. Some one of a thousand banded outthroats endeavors to murder a sovereign on the theory that the said sovereign is a monster, an enemy of the human race, a creature whose death is necessary that the world may be inhabitable; but if the outthroat falls into the hands of justice he cries out for succor to the same sovereign as if he were not only an angel of mercy and the most magnanimous of human creatures, but as if he might justly suspend the laws of the land in any case in which he was personally interested. The determination of the Spanish authorities to execute Moncasi ought to please the regicides, for he was a clumsy tool whom they are rid of, and the punishment of death gives dignity to their craft.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Winlow, the Bostonian, has been seen in Buenos Ayres.
John A. Bingham, Minister to Japan, has arrived in Washington.
Colorado is to import the Thibet goat to roam among its hills.
The Pueblo Indians, of New Mexico, speak seven different languages.
Portland, Oregon, has forty men who regularly patronize one optical shop.
Davenport, Iowa, shipped 56,000 bushels of onions last year. Hence these tears.
Stratford, N. H., has 2,000 people, and thirty-nine are more than eighty years old.
Charles Francis Adams, Jr., has resigned as a government director of the Union Pacific Railroad Company.
A daughter of Governor Hampton is expected to create quite a sensation in Washington after the first of the year. She is said to be very beautiful.
The Mayor of Norfolk, Va., will hereafter impose a fine of \$30 upon every person found carrying a razor, the measure being intended to affect colored men.
General Tom Thumb will be forty-one years old to-day. He has a heavy mustache and chin whisker, and has somewhat the appearance of the typical San Francisco speculator—except, of course, in size.
Evening Telegram:—"The public, which always respects a courageous woman, owes Anna Dickinson a cordial welcome back to the lecturer's platform. There she once was brilliantly successful, and we hope she will be again. This is much better than to wait over the dramatic failure. Many a man has fallen quite as disastrously, but not many have shown afterward the superiority to disaster which Miss Dickinson's return to lecturing displays."
Mr. Webb Hayes is the humorist of the family, and the family are not tired of saying so. The President and family were holding a reception in a Western town, when Webb Hayes, the humorist, pulled his hat down over his eyes, buttoned his coat about him so as to disguise himself, and, falling into the line that was moving on to grasp the Hayes hands, took his mother by the hand and said, in a loud voice, "God bless you, madam, for your adherence to the temperance cause." Mrs. Hayes showed no sign of recognition; but the story is still told about the quiet heart at the White House.
Galignani's Messenger:—"Four, which was considered a luxury a few years ago, is now so generally worn, and genuine pile is so admirably imitated in the dyeing process, that a few lines concerning the choice of a fur garment will prove useful to purchasers in Paris. It is the fashion to wear sealskin, otter, chinchilla, coon, lynx, black martens, silver tipped sable, Siberian squirrel and gray krimmer. Seal, otter, mink and silver fox are among the most envied, but seal and otter are pre-eminent. Beaver borders are pointed with white hairs set in with a needle. The beauty of all fur consists in its density; velvet is certainly rendered richer by the application of fur on or around it, but even then does not possess the depth of softness imparted by nature pile. In the choice of sealskin attention should be paid to the way the fleece turns; if upward, it opens slightly and shows in these natural partings a succession of ridge-like depths—a glossy, smooth sealskin is not desirable. Quantities of seal skin in Paris are full of seams on the wrong side, and as the fur wears off in the seams those fur should be avoided. Seal skin is the most expensive—it is rare. The others, from Alaska, are stronger and more attainable. As we have machine-made lace, so have we spurious fur, and this cannot be otherwise when it is fashionable to trim all sorts of cloth with fur bands. The shades chosen form a contrast, such as beaver or otter on drab, sable on rub, ermine on blue. All hands are used as borders, but, instead of several narrow, a single wide one is preferred. The long coat is the most popular cut for winter cloaking, but loose jackets are made entirely of seal. Seal is also used for outdoor caps and hats, bonnets and deep collars, revers, cuffs and pockets. In millinery seal skin is trimmed with ostrich, also with real birds and made of seal of a lighter shade. Shawl-shaped capes of otter are sold in sets completed by a muff and cuffs. Ross and muffs also form a set, for cuffs of fur are somewhat heavy in aspect."

OBITUARY.

ROSWELL C. BRAINARD.
Roswell C. Brainard died at his place of residence, in Hewitt street, near Lee avenue, Brooklyn, of general debility, last Thursday evening, in the fifty-eighth year of his age. The deceased, who was a native of East Haddam, Conn., studied law in the office of Dudley Field when quite a young man, and was admitted to the Bar. He took up his residence in Brooklyn upward of twenty-seven years ago and became active in democratic politics. He was elected Supervisor from the Second ward and was president of that Board. At the expiration of his term it was that body he was elected Alderman. In 1858 he was elected to the Kings county seat at the Bar, being chief of the firm of Brainard & Rice. He was appointed at the commencement of the war Judge Advocate General on the staff of General J. C. Smith, of the Eleventh brigade, National Guard, State of New York. Mr. Brainard also held for one term the position of Corporation Counsel of the city of Brooklyn. A few years ago he was chosen chairman of the Democratic General Committee. He leaves four sons surviving.
JAMES S. ROCKWELL.
James S. Rockwell, a wealthy and respected citizen of Brooklyn, died yesterday, at his residence, No. 4 Montague terrace, in the sixtieth year of his age. The deceased had resided in Brooklyn for thirty years. He was connected with several of the leading monetary institutions and was a most benevolent gentleman. He was a director of the Brooklyn Trust Company and was engaged in the business of manufacturing groceries. The cause of death was scarlet fever and diphtheria. He was a grandchild of the deceased, who died of the same combination of diseases, was buried on Monday last.
UZAL D. WARD.
Uzal D. Ward, of No. 160 Roosevelt avenue, Newark, made and received calls on New Year's Day. He was apparently in good health; but he died that night before a physician could be called. He was sixty-one years of age, and treasurer of the American and Foreign Bible Society. He was engaged in the book trade in New York for thirty years, his place of business being at No. 150 Nassau street.
WILLIAM WHITAKER.
William Whitaker, a retired merchant, of Providence, R. I., died suddenly yesterday afternoon of apoplexy, aged sixty-four years. He was an Alderman elect in the Fourth ward and was president of the Phoenix National Bank. He was greatly respected.